

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FINANCING OF HOUSING PROJECT

*State Director Jasper Schneider stresses importance of housing in Tribal Communities*

**TWIN BUTTES, April 13, 2010** — There is reason to be optimistic in the Twin Buttes area today, as officials from USDA Rural Development, along with Tribal Chairman Marcus Levings, Tribal council members, employees of the Fort Berthold Housing Authority, and community



Officials gather during ground breaking ceremonies on two new apartment complexes to be built at Twin Buttes. L-R: Rollin Brossart, (RD); Mark Schaar, (RD); Becky Knight, (FBHA); Barry Benson, (TAT Council); Harriet Good Iron, (FBHA Board); Iva Gillies, (FBHA Board); and Kevin Kirkpatrick, (First Dakota Enterprises Inc.).

leaders gather to celebrate the groundbreaking of two new six-unit multi-family housing apartments on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

“We recognize the need for affordable housing apartments in the Twin Buttes area and are happy to work with the Three Affiliated Tribes to help meet their housing needs,” USDA Rural Development State

Director Jasper Schneider said. “Providing safe and affordable housing is an important part of Rural Development’s mission and we congratulate the Three Affiliated Tribes for their efforts to work toward making safe and

affordable housing available to everyone in their community.”

The two new apartments will include 12 federally assisted one and two bedroom apartments with rental rates that will be based on 30 percent of the tenant’s adjusted annual income.

“We are excited to see these apartments begin construction,” stated Becky Knight, Executive Director of the Fort Berthold Housing Authority. “Apartments like these would not happen if not for the strong working relationship between USDA Rural Development, the Fort Berthold Housing Authority, and our Tribe.”



A symbolic check is presented to the Fort Berthold Housing Authority during ground breaking ceremonies. L-R: Kevin Kirkpatrick, (First Dakota Enterprises Inc.); Rollin Brossart, (RD); Mark Schaar, (RD); Barry Benson, (TAT Council); Becky Knight, (FBHA); Iva Gillies, (FBHA Board); and Harriet Good Iron, (FBHA Board).

Funding for this project will come from a \$941,460 loan from the USDA Rural Development's Multi-Family Housing Program and a contribution of \$447,034 from the Fort Berthold Housing Authority. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,388,494. The project is expected to be completed in February 2011.

In Fiscal Year 2009, USDA Rural Development provided \$56.4 million in housing programs, \$79.7 million in business and community programs, and \$647.1 million in electric programs to North Dakota citizens.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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